

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 to 14 (Canceled).

15. (New): A dispersion-shifted fiber having
a zero dispersion wavelength that is longer than 1640 nanometer;
a dispersion of -1.0 ps/nm/km to -10.0 ps/nm/km in a wavelength range between 1530 nanometer and 1625 nanometer;
a dispersion slope of a positive value less than 0.07 ps/nm²/km in the wavelength range between 1530 nanometer and 1625 nanometer;
a polarization mode dispersion of not more than 0.1 ps/(km)^{1/2} at a wavelength of 1550 nanometer; and
an effective area of 40-70 μm^2 at the wavelength of 1550 nanometer.

16. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 15, wherein a transmission loss at the wavelength of 1550 nanometer is 0.200 dB/km or less.

17. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 16, wherein the transmission loss at a wavelength of 1383 nanometer is less than the transmission loss at a wavelength of 1310 nanometer.

18. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 17, wherein an increase in the transmission loss at the wavelength of 1383 nanometer after hydrogen aging is not more than 0.04 dB/km.

19. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 18, wherein a cable cut off wavelength at a length of 22m is not more than 1300 nanometer.

20. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 15, comprising:
a center core having a first refractive index at the center;
a second core that surrounds the center core, the second core having a second refractive index, the second refractive index being less than the first refractive index;
a third core that surrounds the second core, the third core having a third refractive index, the third refractive index being greater than the second refractive index; and
a clad that surrounds the third core, the clad having a fourth refractive index, the fourth refractive index being less than the third refractive index.

21. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 16, comprising
a center core having a first refractive index at the center;
a second core that surrounds the center core, the second core having a second refractive index, the second refractive index being less than the first refractive index,
a third core that surrounds the second core, the third core having a third refractive index, the third refractive index being greater than the second refractive index; and
a clad that surrounds the third core, the clad having a fourth refractive index, the fourth refractive index being less than the third refractive index.

22. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 17, comprising:
a center core having a first refractive index at the center;
a second core that surrounds the center core, the second core having a second refractive index, the second refractive index being less than the first refractive index;

a third core that surrounds the second core, the third core having a third refractive index, the third refractive index being greater than the second refractive index; and

a clad that surrounds the third core, the clad having a fourth refractive index, the fourth refractive index being less than the third refractive index.

23. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 18, comprising:

a center core having a first refractive index at the center;

a second core that surrounds the center core, the second core having a second refractive index, the second refractive index being less than the first refractive index:

a third core that surrounds the second core, the third core having a third refractive index, the third refractive index being greater than the second refractive index; and

a clad that surrounds the third core, the clad having a fourth refractive index, the fourth refractive index being less than the third refractive index.

24. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 19, comprising:

a center core having a first refractive index at the center;

a second core that surrounds the center core, the second core having a second refractive index, the second refractive index being less than the first refractive index;

a third core that surrounds the second core, the third core having a third refractive index, the third refractive index being greater than the second refractive index; and

a clad that surrounds the third core, the clad having a fourth refractive index, the fourth refractive index being less than the third refractive index.

25. (New): The dispersion-shifted fiber according to claim 20, wherein relative refractive index differences of the center core the second core and the third core with respect to the clad are set to positive values.